BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 11-33 August 19, 2011

- **BC's inflation rate slows to 1.7% in July**
- **Manufacturing sales inch 0.6% higher in June; down 0.8% in the second quarter**
- **Visitor entries advance 0.5% in June**

Prices

- **Inflation in British Columbia dipped to 1.7% between July 2010 and July 2011, down from a 2.7% year-over-year increase in the previous month.** One of the main drivers for the increase in consumer prices was a 9.5% rise in energy prices with gasoline costing 13.1% more than a year ago. Excluding the effects of volatile energy prices, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 1.1%.

  It should be noted that July 2011 marks the first month for which the province's year-over-year inflation rate was calculated using two months during which the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) was in effect.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **A significant increase in the cost of fresh vegetables (+14.4%) and meat (+7.2%) propelled grocery bills 4.9% higher, while restaurant meals cost 2.3% more in July compared to the same month last year.** Despite lower prices for natural gas (-3.0%), shelter costs rose 1.0%, an increase driven by higher insurance premiums (+17.2%), electricity bills (+6.7%) and property taxes (+4.8%). The cost of household operations rose (+3.2%), while furnishings were comparatively less expensive (-4.2%). Clothing, particularly for women (-9.6%) and children (-14.4%), also took a somewhat smaller bite out of household budgets.

  Gasoline prices continued to soar, rising 13.1% compared to a year ago. This, along with higher prices for public transportation (+4.4%) sent total transportation costs up 3.7% in July. Prices associated with health & personal care dipped 0.3%, while costs for recreation, education & reading materials (+1.8%) and alcohol & tobacco (+1.2%) were higher. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, consumer prices rose 2.7%, largely the result of higher prices for gasoline (+23.5%) and food (+4.3%).** Among the provinces, inflation was lowest in BC (+1.7%) and Alberta (+1.9%) and highest in New Brunswick (+3.8%) and Nova Scotia (+3.5%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia inched ahead 0.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June following back-to-back monthly decreases.** Gains by makers of transportation equipment (+19.0%), primary metals (+6.5%), paper (+3.9%) and food (+1.9%) products were dampened by weaker shipments of wood (-3.1%), beverages & tobacco (-2.6%) and miscellaneous (-16.2%) goods.

  Nationally, manufacturing sales slipped 1.5% in June, marking a third consecutive monthly retreat in shipments. Six provinces posted weaker sales, with Newfoundland & Labrador (-26.9%), Ontario (-2.0%), Quebec (-1.6%) and Alberta (-0.9%) responsible for much of the decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Revenues generated by wholesalers in British Columbia fell 1.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June.** While sales of motor vehicles soared (+22.7%), wholesalers of machinery &

Report **Education and Health - An Analysis of Regions of British Columbia: Part 5 - Northern Health**

Did you know...

Just over one-third (37%) of Canadians support using nuclear power to generate electricity. Nuclear energy's biggest supporters are in India (61%), Poland (57%) and the US (52%).

Data Source: Ipsos Global @dvisory

equipment (-5.7%) and miscellaneous (-12.3%) goods registered substantially lower revenues.

At the national level, wholesale sales inched ahead 0.2% in June, led by gains in Newfoundland & Labrador (+8.7%). BC (-1.9%) and Ontario (-0.9%) were the only provinces to post weaker sales.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The volume of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia jumped 11.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, offsetting the double-digit drop (-10.2%) registered in the previous month.** A surge in sales of North American-built cars (+22.9%) and trucks (+15.5%) was the principal contributor to the increase, with total sales of overseas cars (-1.5%) and trucks (+0.5%) registering little to no growth.

  Nationally, the number of new motor vehicles sold rose 10.8% in June, halting a slide in sales over the previous two months. Ontario (+13.2%), PEI (+13.1%), BC (+11.5%) and Alberta (+10.9%) all registered double-digit increases. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Non-resident entries to Canada via British Columbia advanced 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June.** Accounting for roughly three-quarters of total entries, the number of travellers from the US rose 1.7%, largely due to a sharp increase in same-day visits (+4.6%). The volume of non-US entries slipped 3.1%, the result of a slowdown in the number of travellers from Europe (-4.9%), Asia (-2.0%) and other parts of the world (-2.3%).

  Nationally, non-resident entries were up 1.1% in June. While Saskatchewan (-10.2%), Alberta (-8.4%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (-8.0%) registered fewer visits, the remaining provinces, led by New Brunswick (+8.5%), all posted an increased number of entries. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Labour Force Projections

- **Based on current trends, between 2010 and 2031, the labour force participation rate for British Columbia is expected to fall 3.8 percentage points to 61.7%.** At the same time, the ratio of persons in the labour force to retirees over the age of 65 is expected to drop sharply from 4.1 in 2010 to 2.7 by 2031.

  In 2010, people 55 years and older accounted for 15.1% of BC's labour force. By 2031, that proportion is forecast to swell to 23.1% as the last of the baby boomers reach retirement age in 2031. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 11-010-X*

Second Quarter in Review

- **During the second quarter of 2011, manufacturing sales in British Columbia dipped 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*).** Slowdowns in shipments of wood (-7.1%), computer & electronic (-6.6%) and paper (-1.0%) products offset higher sales of machinery (+5.0%), food (+2.7%) and primary metals (+1.1%).

  Nationally, manufacturing sales slumped 1.9% during the second quarter, mainly driven by significant declines in Newfoundland & Labrador (-32.2%) and Ontario (-3.4%). Saskatchewan (+8.4%), Manitoba (+2.7%) and Alberta (+2.2%) were the only provinces to post gains during the quarter.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **Canada's composite index of leading indicators rose 0.2% in July.** Despite declines in the equity market (-1.7%) and a slight dip in housing (-0.2%), sales of appliances (+1.2%) and other durable goods (+0.1%) were firmer. New orders of manufactured goods were also higher (+3.4%) in July. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Infoline Report

Education and Health – An Analysis of Regions of British Columbia: Part 5 – Northern Health

Research has shown that the health and well-being of individuals is closely associated with their educational levels. Education is considered to be important since it also determines the level of employment and income of individuals. Research in Canada, United States, and other countries supports the findings that lower education leads to lower levels of general health resulting in lower levels of life expectancy and higher incidence of hospitalization and mortality from a number of diseases and conditions. Furthermore, those with lower levels of education are less likely to exercise, eat well, and practice preventive care. (Mustard et al., 1997; Cutler & Lleras-Muney, 2006)

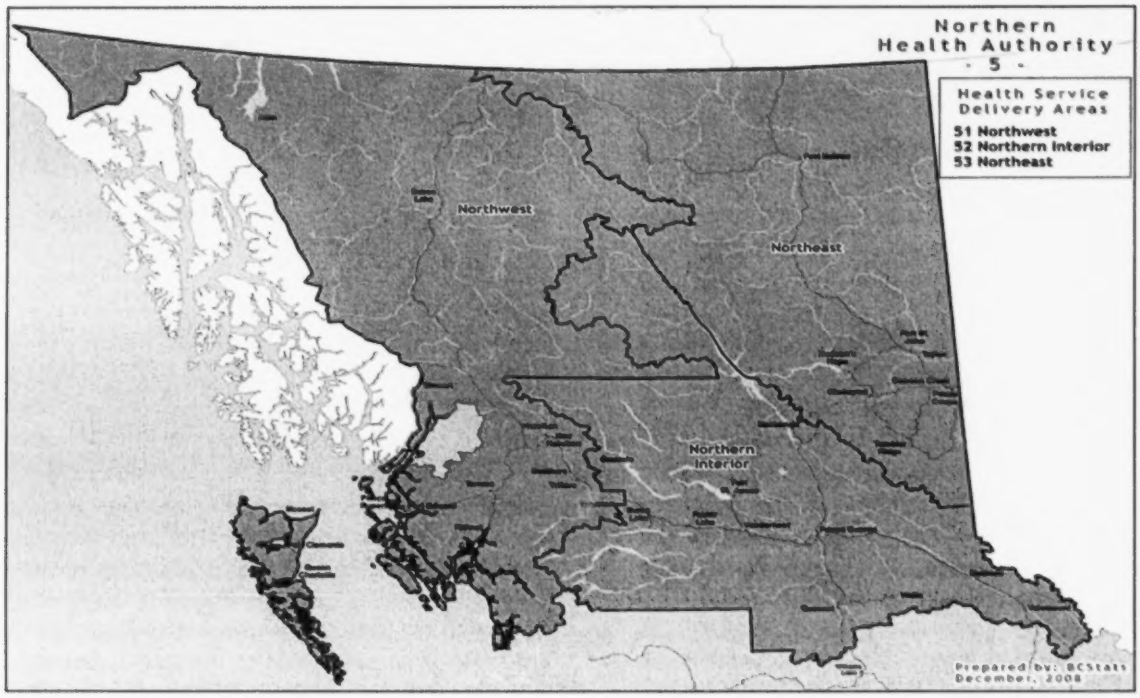
Following the previous reports on Interior, Fraser, Vancouver Coastal, and Vancouver Island health authorities, this report will be the fifth and the final in the series which will examine selected education and health indicators from the BC Stats Socio-Economic Profiles and Indicator Program for Northern Health and its corresponding health service delivery areas (HSDAs) and local health areas (LHAs) in the province. A comparative analysis between health authorities and BC in general will also be included. For a complete list of other health authority profiles and other geographic areas please see:

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose.asp

Northern

Northern Health covers approximately 592,116 square kilometres (64% of BC). The Health Authority is divided into three HSDAs: Northwest, Northern Interior, and Northeast. Each of these HSDAs includes a number of smaller communities called Local Health Areas (LHAs). A complete list of these LHAs is provided in the following table.

Vancouver Coastal Health		
Northwest	**Northern Interior**	**Northeast**
Queen Charlotte Snow Country Prince Rupert Upper Skeena Smithers Kitimat Stikine Terrace Nisga'a Telegraph Creek	Quesnel Burns Lake Nechako Prince George	Peace River South Peace River North Fort Nelson



Profile

Approximately 288,570 people (6.4% of total BC population) live in Northern Health. Nearly one third of the population resides in city of Prince George. Other cities with a population of over 10,000 are Fort St. John, Prince Rupert, Terrace and Dawson Creek. Approximately 55 percent of the population of Northern Health is between ages of 25 and 64 and around 23 percent of the population is less than 18 years of age. Around 11 percent of the Northern Health population is over 65 years of age. According to 2006 Census, 4.2 percent of the population in Northern identified themselves as visible minorities while 17.5 percent of the population considered themselves to be Aboriginal. From 2007 to 2009, 1,432 new immigrants arrived in Northern (1.2% of total BC Immigrant arrivals). Close to 64 percent of the immigrant population in Northern Health was between 25 and 64 years of age while nearly 23 percent was under 18 years of age.

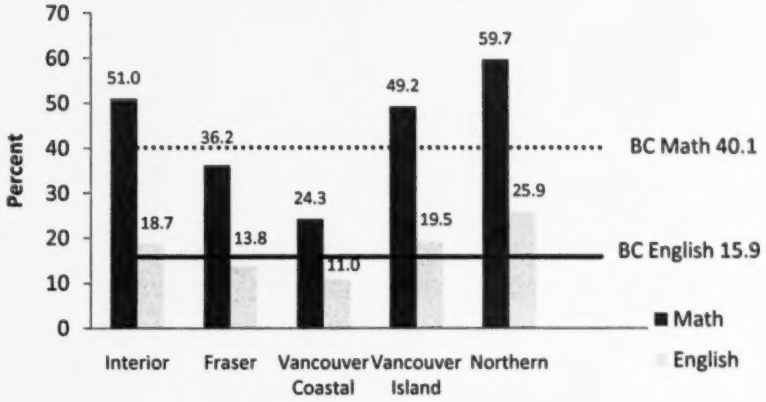
Education

Provincial Exams

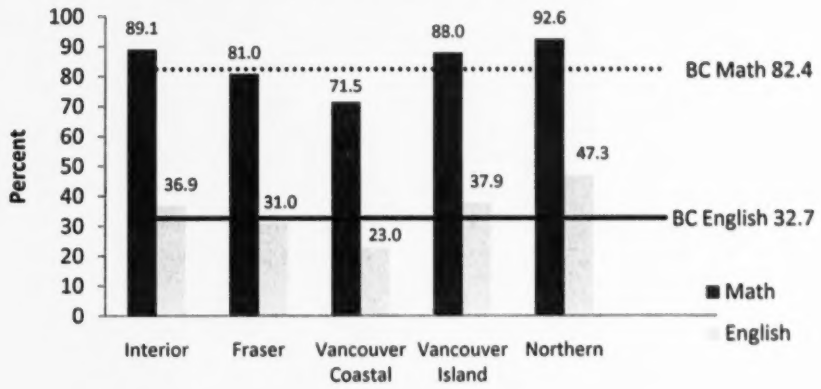
Between 2007/08-2009/10, 59.7 percent of all Grade 10 students in Northern Health did not complete their Math provincial exams and 25.9 percent of the students did not complete their English provincial exams. Both these rates were considerably higher than the provincial rates of 40.1 percent and 15.9 percent respectively. The same pattern was also true for Grade 12 provincial exams with nearly 93 percent of students not completing their Math exams and 47.3 percent of students not completing their English exams. The non-completion rates for BC for these exams were 82.4 and 32.7 percent respectively. Overall, Northern Health had the highest non-completion rates for all exams in both grades in the province. Of the three HSDAs in Northern Health, North-

east had the highest non-completion rate for Grade 10 Math exams (66.4 percent) while Northwest had the highest non-completion rates for Grade 10 English exams (31.0 percent). These rates were higher than the Northern Health average and considerably higher than the provincial average. All three HSDAs in the Northern had similar non-completion rates for Grade 12 Math exams with Northeast at 94.0 percent, Northern Interior at 92.2 percent and Northwest at 92.1 percent. Northwest had the highest non-completion rate for Grade 12 English exams at 51.2 percent.

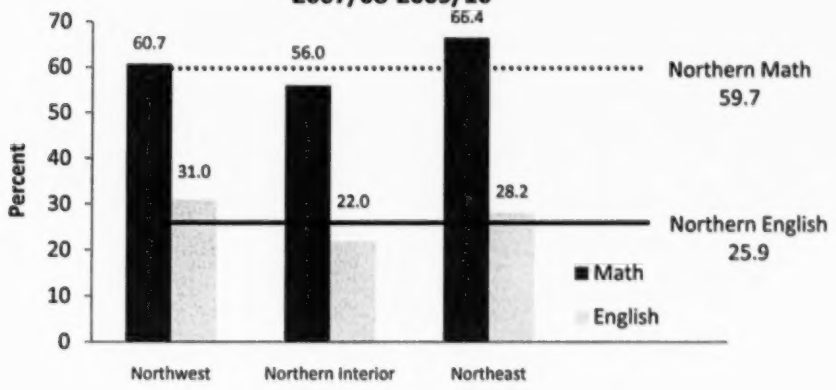
Grade 10 Provincial Exams Non-Completion Rates, Health Authorities and BC, 2007/08-2009/10



Grade 12 Provincial Exams Non-Completion Rates , Health Authorities and BC, 2007/08-2009/10



Grade 10 Provincial Exams Non-Completion Rates, Northern Health and its Health Service Delivery Areas, 2007/08-2009/10



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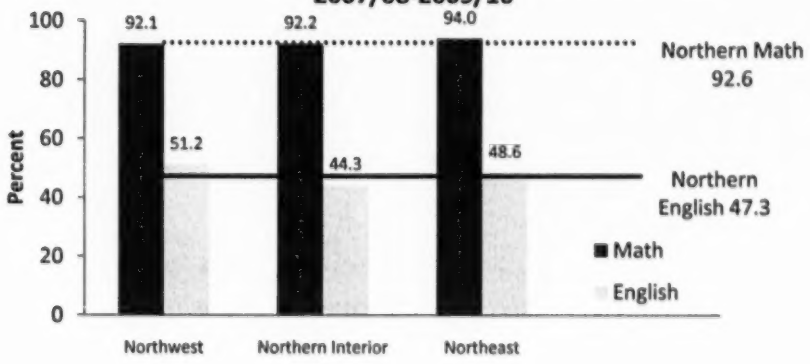
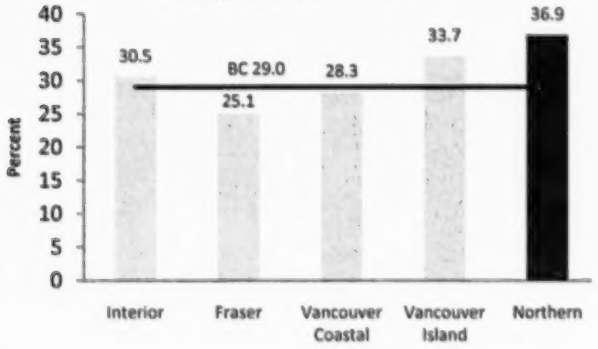


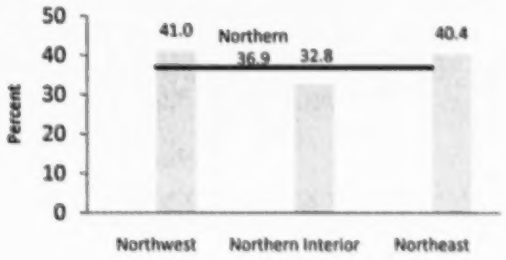
High School Graduation

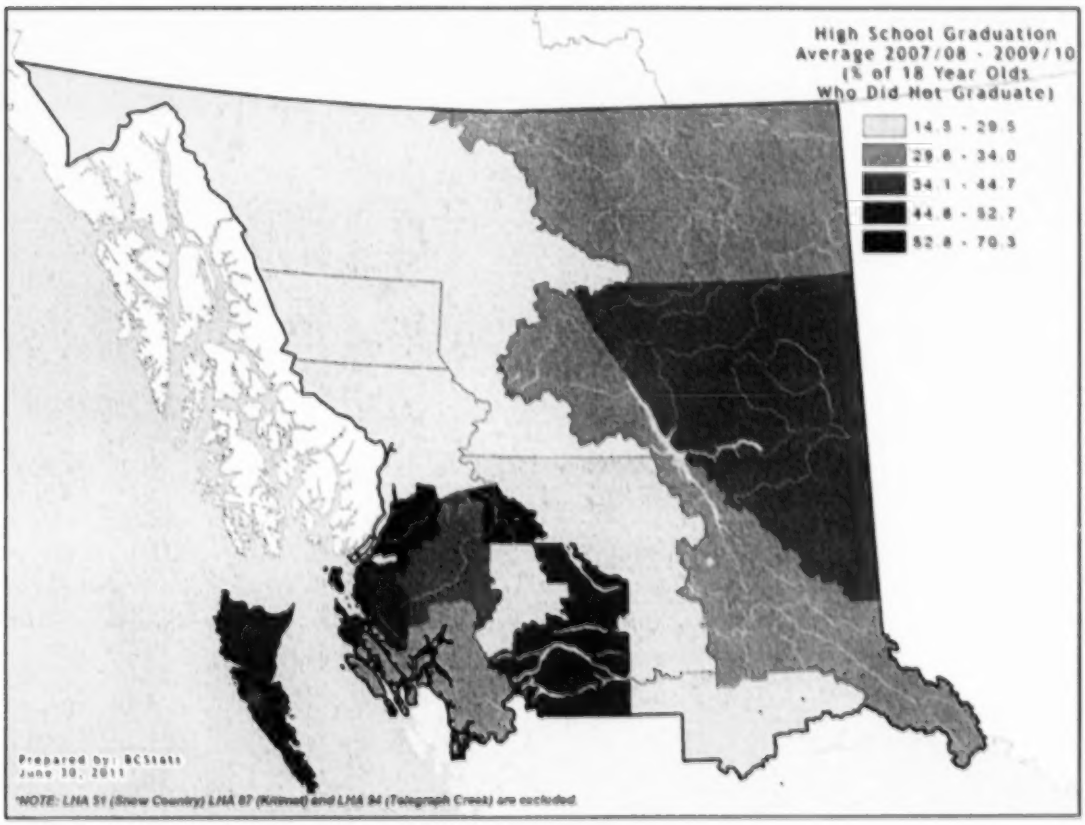
Between 2007/2008-2009/2010, nearly 37 percent of 18-year-olds in Northern Health did not graduate from high school, the highest percentage of non-graduation rate in the province. The average provincial rate was 29.0 percent. Of the three HSDAs in Northern Health, Northern Interior had the lowest non-graduation rate at 32.8 percent while Northeast and Northwest had similar rates at 40.4 percent and 41.0 percent respectively. Looking at the LHA levels, the following map shows that nearly all LHAs within Northern Health had non-graduation rates that were above the provincial rate of 29.0 percent except Smithers (14.5 percent) and Nechako (25.1 percent). Upper Skeena had the highest non-graduation rate at 70.3 percent and Nisga'a had the second highest non-graduation rate at 61.4 percent.

Percent of 18-year-olds who did not graduate from high school, Health Authorities and BC, Average 2007/08-2009/10



Percent of 18-year-olds who did not graduate from high school, Northern and its Health Service Delivery Areas, Average 2007/08-2009/10

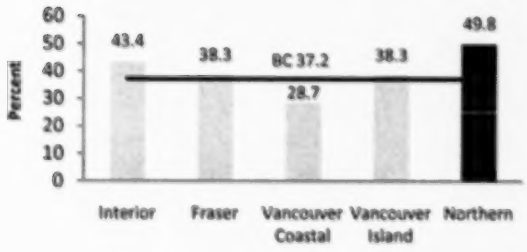



High School Graduation
Average 2007/08 - 2009/10
(% of 18 Year Olds
Who Did Not Graduate)
14.5 - 29.5
29.8 - 34.0
34.1 - 44.7
44.8 - 52.7
52.8 - 70.3
Prepared by: BCStats
June 30, 2011
*NOTE: LHA 51 (Stikine Country) LHA 87 (Kitimat) and LHA 94 (Telegraph Creek) are excluded

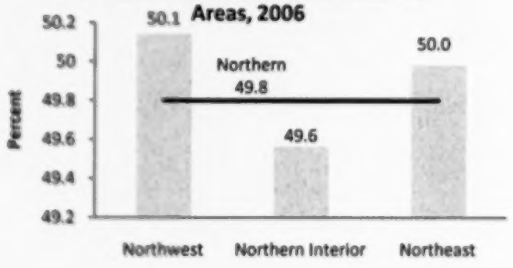
Post-Secondary Education

Based on 2006 Census, nearly half of the population between 25-54 years of age in Northern Health did not have post-secondary credentials. This was the highest rate among all health authorities and was also notably higher than the provincial average rate of 37.2 percent. All HSDAs in Northern Health had similar rates with Northwest at 50.1, Northeast at 50.0 and Northern Interior at 49.6 percent.

Percent of Population 25-54 without Post-Secondary Credentials, Health Authorities and BC, 2006



Percent of Population age 25-54 without Post-Secondary Credentials, Northern Health and its Health Service Delivery Areas, 2006

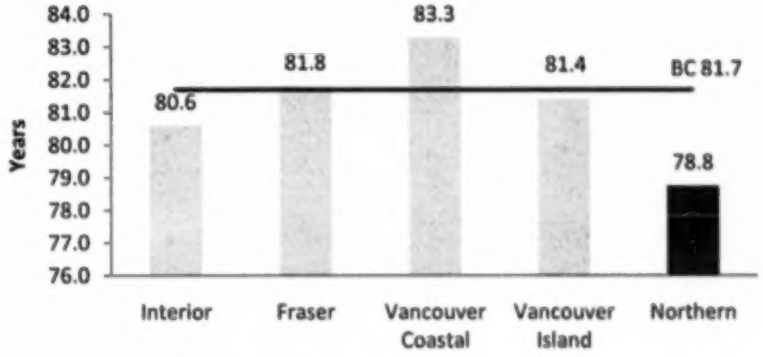


Health

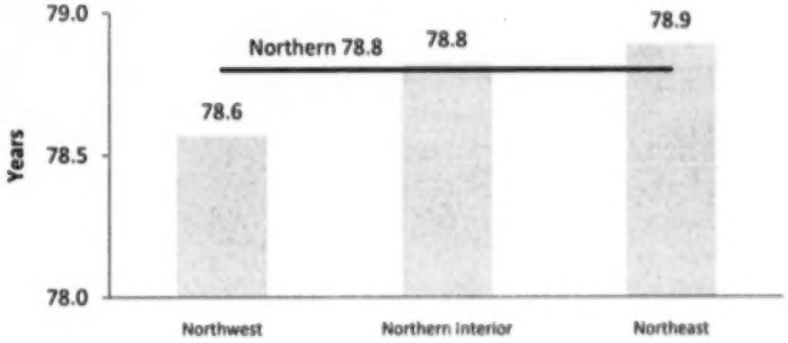
Life Expectancy

The 5-year average life expectancy for 2006-2010 for Northern Health was 78.8 years. Compared to other health authorities, Northern Health had the lowest life expectancy in the province. The provincial life expectancy average rate was 81.7 years. All three HSDAs in Northern Health had similar life expectancy with Northeast at 78.9 years, Northern Interior at 78.8 years and Northwest at 78.6 years.

Life Expectancy, Health Authorities and BC, Average 2006-2010



Life Expectancy, Northern Health and its Health Service Delivery Areas, Average 2006-2010

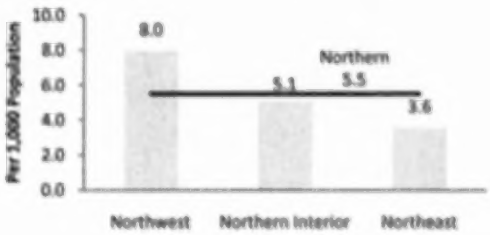


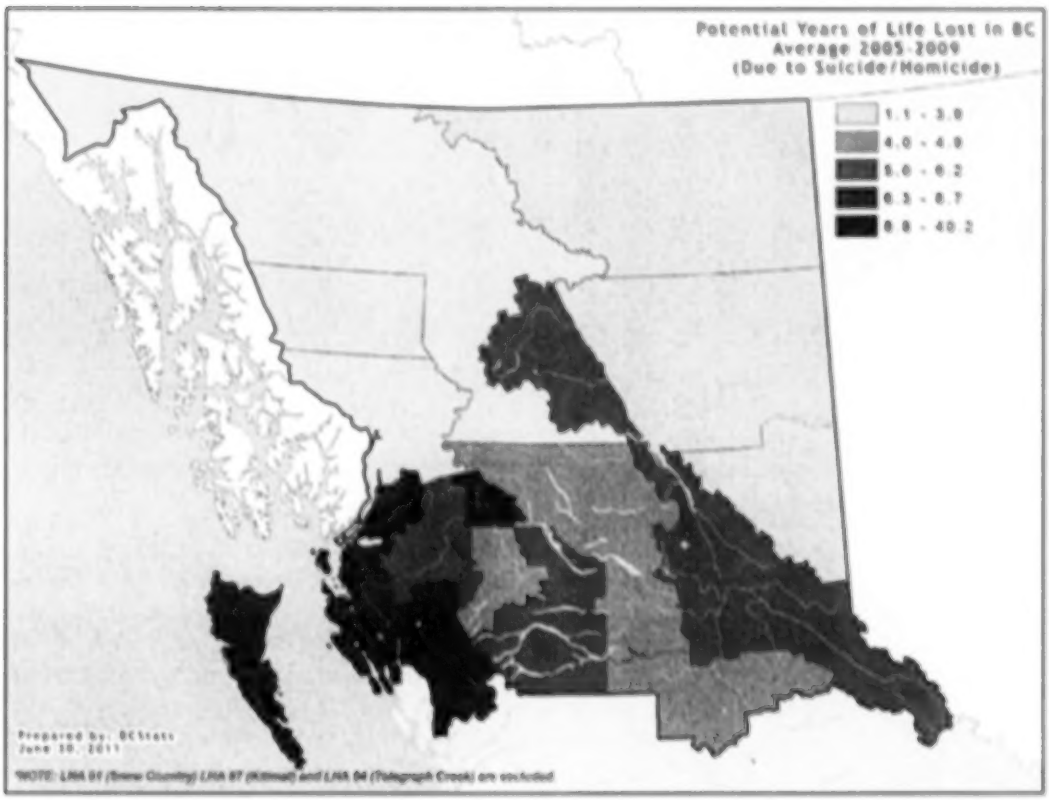
Potential Years of Life Lost

Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) refers to the number of years of life lost before an individual reaches a specified age (75 years). Northern Health had the highest 5-year average rate of PYLLs due to homicides and suicides among all health authorities (5.5 per 1,000). The BC average was 3.9 per 1,000. Of the three HSDAs, Northwest had the highest PYLL rate at 8.0 per 1,000 which was more than twice that of the provincial rate. Northern Interior also had a higher rate than the provincial average at 5.1 per 1,000. Northeast had the lowest rate among all HSDAs at 3.6 per 1,000. The maps of LHAs shows that a number of LHAs in with high rates of PYLLs due to homicides and suicides are located in Northwest. Nisga'a had the highest rate at 40.2 per 1,000, over 10 times the provincial rate while Upper Skeena had the second highest rate (12.5per 1,000), over 3 times the provincial rate.

Potential Years of Life Lost due to Homicide/Suicide, Health Authorities and BC, Average 2005-2009

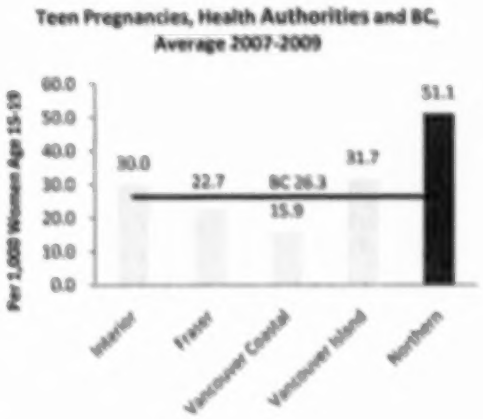
Potential Years of Life Lost due to Homicide/Suicide, Northern Health and its Health Service Delivery Areas, Average 2005-2009

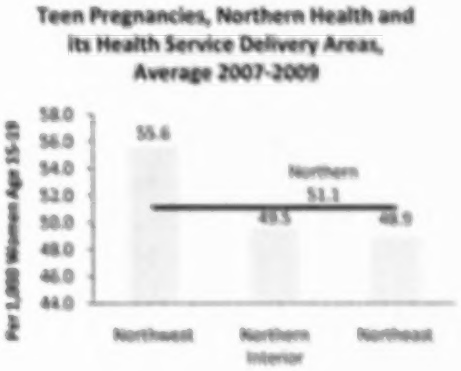




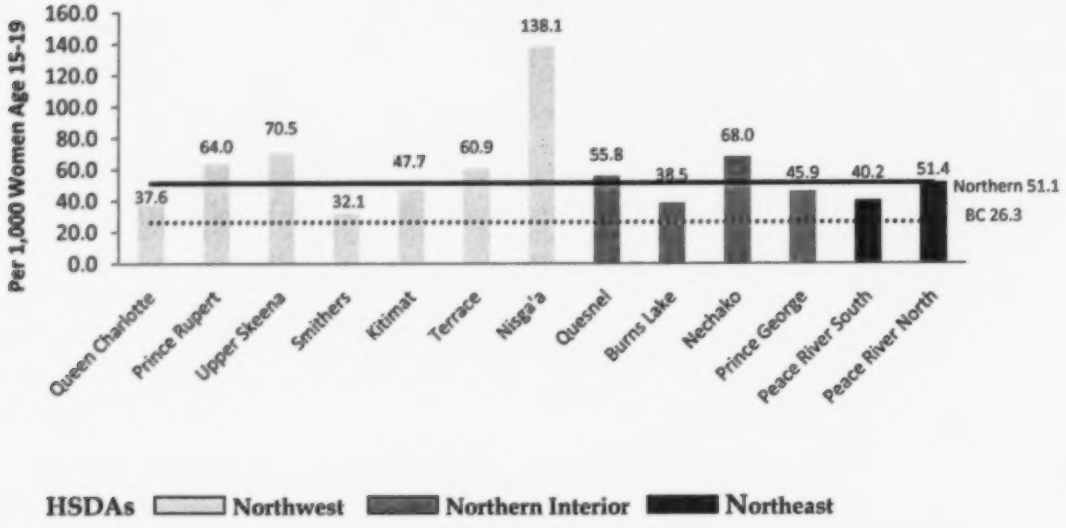
Teen Pregnancy

Teen Pregnancy refers to births given by mothers who are between ages of 15 and 19. Teen pregnancies are unplanned and can negatively impact the health and well-being of the mother and child during pregnancy, at birth, and later on in life. The 3-year average of teen pregnancy rate for 2007-2009 was 51.1 per 1,000 women age 15-19 in Northern Health which was nearly twice the provincial rate and considerably higher than all other health authorities in BC. Of all the HSDAs in Northern Health, Northeast had the highest teen pregnancy rate at 55.6 per 1,000. Northern Interior and Northeast had lower rates at 49.5 and 48.9 respectively. Teen pregnancy data in Northern showed notable variations at the LHA levels particularly in Northwest where the rates were from 32.1 in Smithers to 138.1 per 1,000 in Nisga'a which was the highest rate in the province. Variations were also seen in Northern Interior where the rates were from 38.5 per 1,000 in Burns Lake to 68.0 per 1,000 in Nechako.





Teen Pregnancies, BC, Northern Health and its Local Health Areas, 2007-2009



Note: LHAs 51(Snow Country), 87 (Stikine) and 94 (Telegraph Creek) are excluded due to small numbers and rates.

Conclusion

A number of research studies in Canada, United States and other countries have shown a close association between educational attainments and health. The study of selected education and health indicators in Northern Health showed that areas with lower levels of provincial exam completions, graduation rates, and post-secondary credentials also had lower life expectancy, higher PYLLs due to homicide/suicide and higher rates of teen pregnancies. Data Analysis at LHA level showed significant variation among LHAs within the same HSDAs, particularly in Northwest and Northern Interior. Further study and research is needed to determine the causes of such disparities.

Infoline

August 19, 2011
Issue 11–33

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,563.3	1.1
Canada	34,349.2	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun 2011	3,113	0.6
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2011	2,771	0.8
Retail Sales - May 2011	4,921	-0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	1.6	2.4
Victoria	1.6	2.1
Canada	2.7	2.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul 2011	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	5.4	
Labour Force - BC	2,453.3	0.3
Employed - BC	2,274.1	0.2
Unemployed - BC	179.2	1.0
		Jun 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.3	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 17/2011	Aug 18/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.30
- 5 year	5.39	5.49
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 17/2011	Aug 18/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9820	1.0289
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0207	0.9721
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul 2011	one year ago
BC	834.14	1.4
Canada	833.73	1.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices, 2010

The regional socio-economic profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health, immigrants, and risk factors for children and youth. The socio-economic indices summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index. When viewed together, these indices provide a summary measure of the relative successes and challenges across regions of the province and provide policy makers with information that supports fact based decision-making when allocating budgetary resources.

The socio-economic profiles are available for various regions within the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, Health Service Delivery Areas, Health Authorities, and custom geographies. The socio-economic indices are available for Regional Districts and Local Health Areas.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

BC Labour Market Outlook 2010-2020

The second annual Labour Market Outlook (2010-2020) report, featuring labour market supply and demand projections by occupation and region, is now available. Based on the BC Labour Market Scenario Model (undertaken by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation in partnership with BC Stats and the Ministry of Finance), this report provides projections of future job openings and potential labour market imbalances.

http://www.workbc.ca/docs/BCLMOutlook.pdf

Released this week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, July 2011

Next week

- No periodical releases

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